



Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2008

File No. 386

Senate Bill No. 616

Senate, April 1, 2008

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. MEYER of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-6i of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Department of Public Health WIC client screening processes
4 and records shall provide the basis for identifying participants eligible
5 for receipt of vouchers.

6 (b) Local WIC agencies shall distribute vouchers at designated
7 distribution clinics to participants in the manner specified by the
8 department in the program and procedures guide for distribution
9 clinic staff. Local WIC agency services shall ensure that:

10 (1) Vouchers are distributed only to participants through
11 verification that the client name and number on the distribution
12 registry provided by the Department of Public Health correspond with

13 the client name and number printed on the WIC identification folder in
14 the possession of the participant.

15 (2) Each eligible participant is issued five [two-dollar] three-dollar
16 vouchers during each distribution as authorized by the department.

17 (3) The voucher serial numbers issued to the participant correspond
18 to the number in the distribution registry in which the participant
19 signature is affixed.

20 (4) Each voucher issued and the distribution registry are properly
21 signed by the participant in the presence of local agency staff at the
22 time of distribution.

23 (5) A proxy is not allowed to act on behalf of a participant, except in
24 the case of a parent or legal guardian acting on behalf of a participant
25 child or infant, or in the case of a husband acting on behalf of his wife.

26 (6) Each participant is provided a thorough explanation of program
27 guidelines and participant responsibility as outlined by the
28 department.

29 (7) All CFM/WIC support materials are put into use as outlined by
30 the department.

31 (8) Accurate and complete records of all related CFM/WIC activities
32 in the possession of a WIC local agency are maintained and retained
33 for a minimum of four years. In the event of litigation, negotiation, or
34 audit findings, the records shall be retained until all issues arising from
35 such actions have been resolved or until the end of the regular four-
36 year period, whichever is later.

37 (9) All agency records pertaining to this program shall be made
38 available for inspection to representatives of USDA-FNS, the
39 Comptroller General of the United States, the state Auditors of Public
40 Accounts, the department, and the Department of Public Health as
41 necessary, at any time during normal business hours, and as
42 frequently as is deemed necessary for inspection and audit.

43 Confidentiality of personal information shall be maintained as to all
44 program participants at all times.

45 Sec. 2. Section 22-26f of the general statutes is repealed and the
46 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

47 (a) There shall be a State Veterinarian who shall be an employee of
48 the Department of Agriculture and shall serve as the chief livestock
49 health official for the state.

50 (b) The State Veterinarian shall possess and retain during
51 employment a license to practice veterinary medicine in this state. The
52 State Veterinarian shall possess and retain federal accreditation in this
53 state through the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and
54 Plant Health Inspection Service, [and shall have not less than seven
55 years experience in large animal practice.]

56 (c) The State Veterinarian shall (1) act as the official state
57 epidemiologist for animal and poultry diseases, (2) coordinate state
58 and federal governmental agencies and livestock and poultry
59 producers to control diseases, and (3) administer and guide the
60 development and management of disease control and eradication
61 programs performed by the department. The State Veterinarian shall
62 act as liaison with other units in the department, other state agencies
63 and other officials regarding policies concerning disease control and
64 cruelty to animals and shall supervise the quarantine and disposal of
65 animals and poultry condemned because of disease.

66 (d) The State Veterinarian may issue orders to prevent the spread of
67 contagious and infectious diseases among animals and poultry and
68 may protect the public from such diseases as may be transmissible to
69 human beings, either directly or through the products of such animals.

70 (e) The State Veterinarian shall annually issue a list of reportable
71 animal and avian diseases and reportable laboratory findings and
72 amend such list as the State Veterinarian deems necessary. The State
73 Veterinarian shall distribute such list as well as any necessary forms

74 and instructions for use in the reporting of such diseases to each
75 veterinarian licensed in this state and to each diagnostic laboratory
76 that conducts tests on animals or birds in this state.

77 Sec. 3. Section 22-26j of the general statutes is repealed and the
78 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

79 The Department of Agriculture shall establish and administer a
80 farm viability matching grant program [of matching grants] to
81 [municipalities] any municipality, group of municipalities, regional
82 planning agency organized under the provisions of chapter 127,
83 regional council of elected officials organized under the provisions of
84 chapter 50, regional council of governments organized under the
85 provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, or group of
86 municipalities which have established a regional interlocal agreement
87 pursuant to sections 7-339a to 7-339l, inclusive, to further agricultural
88 viability. Such grants may be used for the following purposes: (1)
89 Local capital projects that foster agricultural viability, including, but
90 not limited to, processing facilities and farmers markets; and (2) the
91 development and implementation of agriculturally-friendly land use
92 regulations and local farmland protection strategies that sustain and
93 promote local agriculture.

94 Sec. 4. Section 22-26k of the general statutes is repealed and the
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

96 (a) There is established a farm transition grant program which shall
97 be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Matching grants
98 shall be made to farmers, agricultural not-for-profit organizations and
99 agricultural cooperatives for diversification of existing farm
100 operations, transitioning to value added agricultural production and
101 sales, and developing farmers' markets and other venues in which a
102 majority of products sold are grown in the state.

103 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall adopt regulations, in
104 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, for the administration of
105 the program established by this section. Such regulations shall require

106 the development of business plans by applicants as part of the
107 application process.

108 Sec. 5. Section 22-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the
109 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

110 (a) For purposes of this section, "farm products" means products
111 resulting from the practice of agriculture or farming, as defined in
112 section 1-1 and "Connecticut-Grown" means produce and other farm
113 products that have a traceable point of origin within Connecticut.

114 (b) Only farm products grown [and eggs] or produced in
115 Connecticut shall be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Connecticut-
116 Grown". Farm products grown [and eggs] or produced in Connecticut
117 may be advertised or sold in Connecticut as "Native", "Native-Grown",
118 "Local" or "Locally-Grown". Farm products grown [and eggs] or
119 produced within a ten-mile radius of the point of sale for such farm
120 products [or eggs] may be advertised or sold in Connecticut as
121 "Native", "Native-Grown", "Local", or "Locally-Grown". Any person,
122 firm, partnership or corporation advertising farm products as "Native",
123 "Native-Grown", "Local", "Locally-Grown", or "Connecticut-Grown"
124 shall be required to furnish written proof within ten days of the sale of
125 such products that such products were grown or produced in
126 Connecticut or within a ten-mile radius of the point of sale, as
127 applicable, if requested to do so by the Commissioner of Agriculture or
128 said commissioner's designee. Any person who violates any provision
129 of this section shall be fined not more than twenty-five dollars for each
130 product label in violation of this section.

131 Sec. 6. Section 22-118q of the general statutes is repealed and the
132 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

133 [On or before July 1, 1999, the] The Commissioner of Agriculture
134 shall adopt, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, such
135 regulations for commercial feeds and pet foods as are specifically
136 authorized in sections 22-118k to 22-118t, inclusive, and such other
137 reasonable regulations as may be necessary for the efficient

138 enforcement of sections 22-118k to 22-118t, inclusive. In the interest of
 139 uniformity the commissioner shall by such regulations adopt, unless
 140 he determines that they are inconsistent with the provisions of sections
 141 22-118k to 22-118t, inclusive, or are not appropriate to conditions
 142 which exist in this state, the following: (1) The official definitions of
 143 feed ingredients and official feed terms adopted by the Association of
 144 American Feed Control Officials and published in the official
 145 publication of that organization, and may incorporate by reference any
 146 provisions, or future changes to such provisions, which said
 147 association may adopt for the regulation of commercial and customer-
 148 formula feeds, and (2) any regulation promulgated pursuant to the
 149 authority of the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 USC Section
 150 301, et seq.) provided the commissioner otherwise has the authority to
 151 adopt such regulations. The commissioner may establish fees in such
 152 regulations to defray the costs of administering this section.

153 Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) Section 22-118v of the general statutes
 154 is repealed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-6i
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-26f
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-26j
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22-26k
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	22-38
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	22-118q
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

ENV Joint Favorable

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There is no fiscal impact resulting from this bill.

Among other changes, the bill clarifies language regarding potential applicants for agriculture viability grants. It also codifies current practice by changing the denomination of the WIC program coupons.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 616*****AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STATUTES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes several minor changes to the agriculture statutes. It:

1. increases the value of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program farmer's market vouchers from \$2 to \$3;
2. removes the requirement that the state veterinarian has at least seven years of experience in large animal practice;
3. transforms the agricultural viability matching grant program for municipalities into a farm viability matching grant program for municipalities; groups of municipalities; and regional planning agencies, councils of governments, and councils of elected officials; and other groups of municipalities with a regional inter-local agreement (the bill does not alter the grant's purposes);
4. makes changes to the "Connecticut Grown" law; and
5. deletes the sunset provision concerning commercial and customer formula feeds.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

CHANGES TO THE "CONNECTICUT GROWN" LAW

The bill defines farm products as those resulting from the practice of farming or agriculture, and "Connecticut Grown" as produce or other farm products that have a traceable origin point in Connecticut. By

law, any person, firm, partnership, or corporation that advertises or claims its products to be native, native-grown, local, locally grown, or Connecticut-grown, must submit proof upon request. The bill requires this proof to be submitted to the Agriculture commissioner within 10 days of the sale. Currently, anyone violating these provisions is subject to a fine of up to \$25. The bill allows the commissioner to impose this fine for each product label violation.

BACKGROUND

WIC Program

The federal WIC program provides grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant and post-partum women, and to infants and children up to five years of age who are at nutritional risk. The Public Health Department (DPH) administers Connecticut's WIC program, which includes a farmer's market voucher program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/12/2008)